

## A new Javan species of *Agaronia* Gray, 1839 (Neogastropoda, Olividae)

David P. CILIA

29, Triq il-Palazz l-Ahmar, Santa Venera SVR1454, Malta  
dpcilia@gmail.com.

**KEYWORDS.** Olividae, Indian Ocean, Java, Indonesia, *Agaronia johnabbasi* sp. nov.

**ABSTRACT.** A new species of olivid neogastropod from West Java, *Agaronia johnabbasi* sp. nov., is described according to conchological characters. It is distinguished from congeners by means of its distinctive morphology and colouration.

### INTRODUCTION

The highly evolved gastropods in the family Olividae are found circumglobally in predominantly tropical or subtropical waters. All inhabit soft substrates including sand and silt, though the depths at which different species may be found vary from the littoral to the sublittoral. The genus *Agaronia* Gray, 1839 is sometimes regarded as forming part of the subfamily Agaroniinae Olsson, 1956 (Olsson, 1956; Ponder & Warén, 1988; Vaught, 1989; Sterba, 2004); though in Bouchet & Rocroi (2005), this taxon is synonymized with Olivinae Latreille, 1825. The majority of species are concentrated along the west African and east American coastlines, with some Indian Ocean representatives that include the species described herein (see Table 1 for a complete list of recent species).

### Abbreviations

**Descriptive:** **D** – diameter; **H** – height.

**Repositories:** **DC:** collection of author, Santa Venera, Malta; **GP:** collection of Guido T. Poppe, Cebu, Philippines; **JA:** collection of John Abbas, Jakarta, Indonesia; **MNHN:** Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France; **NMNH:** National Museum of Natural History, Mdina, Malta.

### MATERIALS & METHODS

Seven shells were collected by fishermen with bottom trawling nets from the eastern bay in Pangandaran, West Java, in late 2009, at a depth of about 60m. Their shell morphology was compared and contrasted with that of the five known sympatric congeners. Maximum diameter and height of the shells, the former incorporating the lip, were measured twice using a dial caliper with a resolution of 50µm, the average of the two measurements was then calculated and noted.

### SYSTEMATICS

Family **OLIVIDAE** Latreille, 1825

Subfamily **OLIVINAE** Latreille, 1825

Genus *Agaronia* Gray, 1839

Type species by monotypy *Voluta hiatula* Gmelin, 1791, West Africa

*Agaronia johnabbasi* sp. nov.

Figs. 1-6

**Type material.** Collected by fishermen, c. -60m on silty substrate, east Pangandaran Bay, Java, Indonesia, October 2009. Holotype **MNHN** 23267; paratypes: **DC** R.GA1000-1; **GP** unreg.; **JA** unreg.; **NMNH** unreg.

**Type locality.** East Pangandaran Bay, Java, Indonesia.

**Description.** Dextral solid shell, of maximum height of about 40mm and a height/diameter ratio of about 2.8. Spire tall and conical, with a slightly concave profile and featuring a spiral callus occupying about half the height of each whorl. Widest band of the body whorl a uniform dark-orange brown, sometimes with a purplish tinge intensifying towards the suture. This colouration is continuous along the spire, contrasting with the orange-brown spiral callus. Thin wash of white callus present on the columellar side of the aperture close to the filament channel. Just above the postfasciole, a thin pale band is discernible. The postfasciole and the fasciole are of the same colour and are considerably paler than the main part of the body whorl, with the former featuring a few very fine spiral threads and numerous darker growth striae which do not extend upon the fasciole. The belt and the base of the columellar callosity are beige. Outer lip thin, with its outline recurved, and, at the proximity of the siphonal canal, almost parallel with the columellar side of the aperture.

**Dimensions.** See Table 2 for details.

**Remarks.** In colouration, the new species is remarkable in its distinct lack of pattern (except for the growth lines typical of all *Agaronia*) and, unusually for the genus, the colouration of the postfasciole and fasciole, which are lighter in colour than the main part of the body whorl. The type locality of the new species, Pangandaran Bay yields examples

of all other four Indian Ocean representatives of the genus (J. Abbas, pers. comm. XII.2009) (refer to Table 1). Of these, *Agaronia nebulosa* (Lamarck, 1811) may easily be distinguished by a reticulated pattern over a (generally) very pale background combined with a thick parietal callosity, while *Agaronia gibbosa* (Born, 1778) features reticulation, a significantly lower H/D ratio, a strongly marked postfasciole and a thick parietal callosity. The lighter, occasionally non-reticulated form *flavescens* Melvill, 1904 has a colour which is relatively close to that of *A. johnabbasi*, but the dimensions and the geographical provenance (South India) set it apart at first glance. *Agaronia lutaria* (Röding, 1798) is larger and more slender, with a narrower aperture and strong reticulation. The differences from *A. johnabbasi* are herein illustrated by a juvenile specimen of the same size as two of the paratypes (Figs 7-8). A closer relative of *A. johnabbasi* is *Agaronia johnkochi* Voskuil, 1990 (Figs 9-10). This is suggested by the absence of reticulation, a similarly curved outline of the outer lip, a similarly proportioned spire callus which does not bulge out disproportionately towards the aperture, and the strong demarcation of colour, in perpendicular direction to the filament channel, between the pigmented spiral and the whitish parietal calluses. However, the spire of *A. johnabbasi* is higher and more acutely angled than that of *A. johnkochi*, while the spiral callus is lighter in colour, contrasting less with the rest of the whorl. The widest part of the shell of *A. johnabbasi* is closer to the apical part of the shell, the parietal callus is thinner, and the oblique striae on the pillar structure are thinner and closer to each other, with no chromatic aberrations between them; all these features are consistent and may be used for morphological differentiation between the two species.

The gracile shell of *A. johnabbasi* is also similar to that of the West African *Agaronia hiatula* (Gmelin, 1791), but the outer lip is recurved and therefore the aperture is narrower.

**Etymology.** The species is named after John Abbas (Jakarta, Indonesia) who initially recognized the species as a new one, kindly bringing it to the author's attention.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is indebted to John Abbas for the specimens sent for examination, including comparative material, Eddy Wilmet (Mechelen, Belgium) for comparative material, Jon Camilleri (Birkirkara, Malta) for the photography of specimens, Roland Houart (Landen, Belgium) for editorial comments and recommendations and John J. Borg (NMNH), Philippe Bouehet & Virginie Héros (MNHN), Guido Poppe & Sheila Tagaro (conchology.be) for technical assistance.

#### REFERENCES

- Bouchet, P. & Rocroi J.-P., 2005. Classification and nomenclator of gastropod families. *Malacologia*, 47 (1-2): 1-397.
- Marrat, F. P., 1871. *Oliva*, Bruguière. *Thesaurus Conchyliorum*, 4: 1-46 + pls. 342-351.
- Olsson, A. A., 1956. Studies on the genus *Olivella*. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, 108: 155-225.
- Petuch, E. J., 1987. *New Caribbean molluscan faunas*. pp. i-v + 1-154 + A1-A4 + 29 pl. Virginia (Coastal Education and Research Foundation).
- Ponder, W. F. & Warén, A., 1988. Classification of the Caenogastropoda and Heterostropha - A list of the family-group names and higher taxa. *Malacological Review*, Supplement 4: 288-326.
- Sterba, G. H. W., 2004. *Olividae a collectors guide*. pp. 1-172. Hackenheim (Conchbooks).
- Teso, V. & Pastorino, G., 2011. A revision of the genus *Olivancillaria* (Mollusea: Olividae) from the southwestern Atlantic. *Zootaxa*, 2889: 1-34.
- Vaught, K. C., 1989. *A classification of the living Mollusca*. pp. i-xii + 1-195. Florida (American Malacologists, Inc.).

#### Figures 1-10

1-6. *Agaronia johnabbasi* sp. nov. East Pangandaran Bay, Java, Indonesia.

1-2. Holotype, MNHN 23267, 38mm; 3-4. Paratype 1, DPC R.GA1000, 41mm; 5-6. Paratype 4, NMNH unreg., 31mm.

7-8. *Agaronia lutaria* (Röding, 1798), East Pangandaran Bay, Java, Indonesia, 31mm (juvenile).

9-10. *Agaronia johnkochi* Voskuil, 1990. East Pangandaran Bay, Java, Indonesia, 47mm.



Name and authority	Distribution	Oceanic division
<i>Agaronia acuminata</i> (Lamarck, 1811)	West Africa	East Atlantic
<i>A. adamii</i> Terzer, 1992	Philippines	West Pacific
<i>A. annotata</i> Marrat, 1871	West Africa	East Atlantic
<i>A. cauta</i> (Marrat, 1871)	West Africa	East Atlantic
<b><i>A. gibbosa</i> (Born, 1778)</b>	India to Malaya	East Indian Ocean
<i>A. griseoalba</i> (von Martens, 1897)	Central America (west)	East Pacific
<i>A. hiatula</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	West Africa	East Atlantic
<i>A. hilli</i> Petuch, 1987	Central America (east)	West Atlantic
<i>A. jesuitarum</i> López, Montoya-Maquín & López, 1988	Central America (west)	East Pacific
<b><i>A. johnabbasi</i> sp. nov.</b>	Indonesia	East Indian Ocean
<b><i>A. johnkochi</i> Voskuil, 1990</b>	Indonesia	East Indian Ocean
<i>A. leonardhilli</i> Petuch, 1987	Central America (east)	West Atlantic
<b><i>A. lutaria</i> (Röding, 1798)</b>	Indonesia	East Indian Ocean
<b><i>A. nebulosa</i> (Lamarck, 1811)</b>	Indonesia	East Indian Ocean
<i>A. nica</i> López, Montoya-Maquín & López, 1988	Central America (west)	East Pacific
<i>A. propatula</i> (Conrad, 1849)	Central America (west)	East Pacific
<i>A. razetoi</i> Terzer, 1992	West Africa	East Atlantic
<i>A. steeriae</i> (Reeve, 1850)	South America (east)	West Atlantic
<i>A. testacea</i> (Lamarck, 1811)	Central America (west)	East Pacific
<i>A. travassosi</i> Morretes, 1938	South America (east)	West Atlantic

**Table 1.** Recent species of *Agaronia* Gray, 1839 based on Marrat (1871), Petuch (1987), Sterba (2004), Teso & Pastorino (2011) and the present research. Bold type indicates species in close geographical proximity to the new species.

	Holotype MNHN 23267	Paratype 1 DC R.GA1000	Paratype 2 JA unreg.	Paratype 3 JA unreg.	Paratype 4 NMNH unreg.	Paratype 5 GP unreg.	Paratype 6 DPC R.GA1001	mean
<b>H</b>	38	41	40	33	31	31	28	35
<b>D</b>	14	15	14	12	11	11	10	12
<b>H/D</b>	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8

**Table 2.** Dimensions of the type series of *Agaronia johnabbasi* sp. nov. (7 specimens) and their mean value. Measurements are in millimetres.